



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

December 21, 2004

ACL 04-14

TO: LOCAL REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS  
CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS  
COUNTY RECORDERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC PARTNER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
ACT OF 2003-EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

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**Introduction** This All County Letter (ACL) provides information on the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003

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**Effective Date** **This new law becomes effective January 1, 2005.**

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***Statutes of 2003, chapter 421 (A.B. 205) and subsequent amendments (Statutes of 2004, chapter 947 (A.B. 2580))*** The California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003 (Statutes of 2003, chapter 421 (A.B. 205)) and subsequent amendments (Statutes of 2004, chapter 947 (A.B. 2580)) extend most rights and duties of marriage granted under state law to persons registered as domestic partners on and after January 1, 2005.

***The role of  
hospitals  
and local  
registrars***

The attached letter to General Acute Care Hospitals and Alternative Birthing Centers provides guidance on how the new law affects the birth registration process. Please refer to the letter for a description of the role of hospitals in implementing the law, as well as a list of the new statutory requirements. Local registrars should ensure that hospitals have a copy of the new requirements and that they are reflected appropriately on birth certificates registered at the local level. Local Registrars must also follow this process when completing certificates and registering out-of-hospital births.

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**Revised  
Birth and  
Death  
Handbook**

Birth and Death Registration Handbook amendments will be issued shortly.

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**AVSS  
Electronic  
System  
Reminder**

A reminder of this legislation will be displayed when hospitals log onto AVSS.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your Policy/County Analyst.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Michael L. Rodrian  
State Registrar

Enclosure